<p style="text-align:center;"><u>REMARKS</u></p>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 20, 2008. Claims 1 to 8 and 11 to 14 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11 and 12 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 4, 6, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) and 102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0036790 (Nishiyama). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nishiyama. Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nishiyama in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0077097 (Parry). Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nishiyama in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0015812 (Sugaya). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns management of printing for a plurality of users. In one aspect of the invention, a plurality of users can simultaneously log-on to a single information processing apparatus, and therefore a plurality of user sessions and one active session exist in the information processing apparatus. Typically, as information can be displayed only for an application activated in the active session, it is impossible to display information for an application obtained in any of the user sessions. However, the present invention provides a solution to the problem that it is impossible to notify users of information obtained in the user sessions.

Turning now to claims, Claim 1 is directed to a notifying method of notifying a user of information regarding an image processing apparatus which communicates with an information processing apparatus wherein the information

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processing apparatus can simultaneously provide, for each of a plurality of users who simultaneously log-on to the information processing apparatus, an environment, as a user session, in which a program desired by the user can be activated, and wherein one of the user sessions serves as an active session for one of the plurality of users who exclusively operates a display unit of the information processing apparatus, said method. The method comprises a print data transmitting step of transmitting print data to the image processing apparatus; an obtaining step of obtaining the information regarding the image processing apparatus in one of the user sessions for a predetermined one of the plurality of users; a specifying step of specifying an active session for another of the plurality of users different from the predetermined user; an activating step of activating a display program in the active session specified in said specifying step in order to display the information regarding the image processing apparatus obtained in said obtaining step on the display unit occupied in the specified active session; and an information transmitting step of transmitting the obtained information to the display program activated in the specified active session in said activating step.

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied reference, namely Nishiyama, is not seen to disclose or to suggest all of the features of independent Claim 1.

According to one feature of the present invention, a plurality of users can simultaneously log-on to a single information processing apparatus, and therefore a plurality of user sessions and one active session exist in the information processing apparatus. In contrast to the present invention, Nishiyama discloses an information processing apparatus which displays status information on printing of job data. Nishiyama changes displayed contents of the status information for respective users in order to ensure

confidentiality of job data set for confidential printing, such as shown in paragraphs 0067 to 0070 and in Figs. 12 and 13. As such, Nishiyama does not consider the situation in which a plurality of users simultaneously log-on to a single information processing apparatus. Nishiyama is accordingly silent as to an active session which occupies the display unit of the information processing apparatus.

In another feature of the present invention, an information processing apparatus according to the present invention can simultaneously provide, for each of a plurality of users who simultaneously log-on to the information processing apparatus, an environment, as a user session, in which a program desired by the user can be activated. And, one of the user sessions serves as an active session for one of the plurality of users who exclusively operates a display unit of the information processing apparatus. Specifically, since a plurality of users can simultaneously log-on to a single information processing apparatus, there exist in the information processing apparatus at least one user session for a predetermined user and one active session, different from the user session(s), which exclusively operates the display unit of the information processing apparatus.

In contrast, Nishiyama discloses a print system in which a plurality of PCs share one image processing apparatus (information processing apparatus). Those PCs, usually placed at remote locations, send print data to the one image processing apparatus via a network and receive, from the image processing apparatus, status information on the image processing apparatus or print status information on job data provided by the PCs. Then, the PCs may display the received information on their respective display units. Accordingly, Nishiyama fails to disclose or suggest an environment in which a specific user exclusively operates the display unit of one information processing apparatus.

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In another feature of the present invention, an information processing apparatus according to the present invention activates a display program in the specified active session in order to display the information regarding the image processing apparatus on the display unit occupied in the specified active session, and transmits the information regarding the image processing apparatus to the display program activated in the specified active session.

However, according to Nishiyama, the PCs receive status information on the image processing apparatus and display the received information on their respective display units. It may be determined who requested the status information, such as the owner of the job data, another user or the manager of the image processing apparatus. The status information is sent from the image processing apparatus to the PCs such that predetermined information may be presented to the respective requesters. Applicant submits that the person who requests the status information on the image processing apparatus and the person who receives the requested status information is the same user. Nishiyama does not take into account the situation in which the information requester differs from the information receiver. Even if a user for a specific user session and another user for the active session of the present invention correspond to the job owner and the other user of Nishiyama, there is no disclosure in Nishiyama as to the structure for transmitting status information obtained by the job owner to the display unit of a PC which the other user operates. Therefore, Nishiyama does not employ an information transmitting step as featured in Claim 1.

According to another feature of the present invention, even when a specific user different from a predetermined user exclusively operates the display unit of the

information processing apparatus, it is possible to display information regarding the image processing apparatus obtained in a user session for the predetermined user in the display unit, which assures that any users who require certain information may be notified of the information. Such a feature is not found in Nishiyama.

Furthermore, Applicant has reviewed the remaining cited references, namely Parry and Sugaya and submits that these references, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to supply that which is missing from Nishiyama. Parry merely discloses displaying printer error status. Parry obtains information on printer errors via a network or from an external apparatus in order to change contents on a display screen depending on types of the printer errors such as shown in paragraph 0041. In addition, Sugaya merely discloses an image output apparatus which can obtain processing status information on print jobs which have been sent from a print spooler to the image output apparatus. The status of a print job which has been output from the spooler and held in a server can be displayed such as shown in paragraphs 0072 to 0073 and in Fig. 2. Therefore, Applicant submits that these references do not include any of the features of the present invention that are lacking in Nishiyama.

In light of these deficiencies in the disclosures of Nishiyama, Parry and Sugaya, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 11 and 12 are directed to an apparatus and a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 11 and 12 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; However, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Frank Cire #42,419/
Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 42,419

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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